

TEXTBOOK OF ORTHOPAEDIC MEDICINE. Volume Two. By James Cyriax.
Tenth Edition. (Pp 480, Figs 161. £12.50). London: Bailliere Tindall, 1980.

THIS volume is the sequence to that describing the diagnosis and anatomy of the soft tissue lesions occurring in orthopaedic practice. Each method of treatment is clearly illustrated by excellent photographs, and the standard of production is lavish as far as demonstrating a method with description allied to photography as the teaching basis. Great emphasis is laid on the part to be played by the physiotherapist and rightly so. Indeed, if the results of treatment by the author's methods are as he reports then the role of the physiotherapist is of the highest importance. There is much of the philosopher's outlook in the author's approach and little of the grim realism of the injured person who is taking an action for compensation. One wonders if all his patients are not involved in such mundane problems. By modern scientific standards, this work fails because there is no cold proof of the methods, by controlled series or trials. The pictures of the injection treatments, with the doctor's cuffs showing, and with his jacket still on, jar on the aseptic sensibilities.

The author has made an extraordinary and very philosophical decision about the future editions of this book. He has an assistant author . . . a physiotherapist, Gillean Russell . . . to help him in this volume, and to carry on this production in future editions. This remains a beautifully produced volume, and will be of value to everyone interested in what is described in its sub-title as the "Treatment by Manipulation Massage and Injection" of many of the almost mysterious lesions of soft tissue.

R.I.W.

A SHORT TEXTBOOK OF CLINICAL ONCOLOGY. By R. D. Rubens and R. K. Knight. (Pp 182. Illustrated. £2.95). Sevenoaks: Hodder & Stoughton, 1980.

THE publication of this book indicates how much progress and interest there has been in clinical oncology over recent years. This book is a useful addition to the other volumes in the series of university medical texts.

It is not intended for the practising oncologist, but should be valuable for the final year medical student and junior house officer requiring an up-to-date, wide-angle basic knowledge of the subject.

The text is set out in a logical and readable fashion. The concept that cancer therapy is a multimodal one, involving a broad knowledge of medicine, surgery and pathology is emphasised in this book.

The section on chemotherapy is shorter than one might expect from a text with this title, but it is more than adequate for the medical student. The paperback presentation and price mean that one can recommend this volume without hesitation.

S.C. & W.S.L.

BASIC BIOCHEMISTRY. By M. E. Rafelson Jr., J. A. Hayashi and A. Bezkorovainy. Fourth Edition. (Pp 418, Figs 117. £8.75). London: Bailliere Tindall, 1980.

THE purpose of the book, by three Professors of Biochemistry at Rush Medical College, Chicago, is to introduce 'to the student in life sciences and allied disciplines the principles and viewpoints of biochemistry and a core of essential facts, without presenting a overwhelming amount of factual material'. An adequate background in biology and chemistry is assumed, and the book is aimed at students in a very wide range of 'health professions'. Some of the chapters contain useful worked mathematical problems. There are good diagrams of metabolic processes, although these are generally very detailed in comparison with the relevant portions of the text. Each chapter is followed by a short summary of its contents, and by references to a number of advanced textbooks or fairly recent review articles. There is a mistake in Figure 1-1, and on p.9 a change in enthalpy is defined as enthalpy itself.

This is a quick conducted tour of the subject, with frequent stops to present more detail about interesting clinical topics. The examination of blood in the clinical biochemistry laboratory is covered in two pages which deal mainly with enzyme assays. The hormones of the adrenal cortex receive less than half a page of text.

It is difficult to envisage a course of study in this country for which this work could be recommended.

J.R.D.